

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-11 AID-05 /093 W

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P R 241952Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8150

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05551

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR SO TF

SUBJECT: MORE QUAI COMMENT ON FTAI

1. QUAI UN DIRECTOR ST. LEGIER TOLD EMBOFF FEBRUARY 23 THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR GUEURY HAD BEEN SENT BACK TO MOGADISCIO FEBRUARY 21 WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO DIALOGUE WITH GOS. SINCE AMBASSADOR WAS ONLY AWAY FROM HIS POST BRIEFLY, PARIS HOPES GOS WILL NOT CONSIDER THERE HAS BEEN RIFT IN RELATIONS. AMBASSADOR IS TO EXPLAIN GOF PLANS FOR GRANTING FTAI EARLY INDEPENDENCE, STRESSING FRENCH GOODWILL, AS DEMONSTRATED BY RECENT RELEASE OF FTAI OPPOSITION LEADER AHMED DINI AHMED AND THINNING OUT OF TROOPS ON FTAI-SOMALI BORDER.

2. ST. LEGIER SAID GOF HAS SENT SERIES OF LETTERS TO GOVERNMENTS IN HORN AND NORTHEAST AFRICAN AREA, WHICH WILL SHORTLY BE FOLLOWED BY MISSIONS OF FRENCH OFFICIALS VISITING INTERESTED CAPITALS. OBJECTIVE OF ALL THIS  
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ACTIVITY IS TO SEEK NUCLEUS OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH WOULD

JOIN FRANCE IN ACCORDING SOME KIND OF "GUARANTEES" TO  
FUTURE INDEPENDENT FTAL.

3. ST. LEGIER CLAIMED ALI AREF HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY  
SUCCESSFUL IN GAINING ACCEPTANCE AMONG AFRICAN LEADERS.  
FOR INSTANCE, HIS RECENT VISIT TO UGANDA RESULTED IN  
AMIN'S ANNOUNCING NOT ONLY STRONG SUPPORT FOR AREF BUT  
ALSO ACCEPTANCE OF FRANCE'S MILITARY ROLE IN DEFENDING  
INDEPENDENT FTAL.

4. FINALLY, ST. LEGIER EXPRESSED FEAR THAT AT THIS  
WEEK'S MEETING IN ADDIS, SOMALIA MAY OBTAIN OAU CONSEN-  
SUS STATEMENT CRITICAL OF FRANCE; ARMED THEREWITH, IT  
MIGHT ASK FOR UNSC MEETING (PRESUMABLY IN MARCH UNDER  
BENIN PRESIDENCY) TO BLAME GOF FOR LOYADA INCIDENT.

5. COMMENT: WITH THE EXCEPTION OF HIS FEARS ABOUT THE  
ADDIS OAU MEETING, ST. LEGIER DOES NOT REFLECT THE VIEWS  
ABOUT THE HORN WE HEAR FROM MOST OF OUR QUAI INTERLOCU-  
TORS. AFRICAN BUREAU OFFICERS WOULD DOUBT, FOR EXAMPLE,  
THAT GUEURY'S RETURN WILL CONVINCE SOMALIA THERE HAS  
BEEN NO RIFT IN RELATIONS. NOR DO THEY HAVE MUCH CON-  
FIDENCE IN ALI AREF'S FUTURE.

6. WE JUDGE THAT ST. LEGIER'S RATHER ROSY OUTLOOK  
STEMS INSTEAD FROM A GOF DECISION TO PUT THE BEST FACE  
POSSIBLE ON FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA, THAT IS,  
TO WOO THE SOMALIS AFTER THE LOYADA CONFRONTATION. BUT  
WE BELIEVE THE QUAI IS NOT SANGUINE ABOUT THE SUCCESS OF  
THIS NEW TACTIC, ST. LEGIER'S SEEMING OPTIMISM NOTWITH-  
STANDING.

RUSH

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## Message Attributes

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